

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SOFIA 02556 231455Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
BIB-01 EB-08 /062 W
-----003380 232149Z /73

R 231016Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3941
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONUSL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
MAMEMBASSY WARSAW 1747
USIA WASHDC
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 2556

BELGRADE ALSO FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CSCE., 0490, BU, US
SUBJECT: PROTEST ON BULGARIAN JAMMING OF VOA

REF: A) SOFIA 2512; B) STATE 299856

1. AMBASSADOR MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MLADENOV ON DEC 22
TO PROTEST JAMMING OF VOA MEDIUM WAVE BULGARIAN LANGUAGE
BROADCASTS. (FULL TEXT OF NOTE VERBALE BEING POUCHED TO
DEPT.) PROTEST FOLLOWED GENERAL LINES INDICATED IN REFTEL A,
AND INCLUDING PER REFTEL B (NOTAL) SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO RELEVANT
PROVISION OF HELSINKI FINAL ACT. THE NOTE SPECIFIED INTENTIONAL

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NOISE-TYPE JAMMING ON MEDIUM WAVE FREQUENCY 1196 KHZ
FROM 0400 TO 0415 AND 0515 TO 0530 GMT.

2. MLADENOV PROMISED THAT HE WOULD LOOK INTO THE
SITUATION PROMPTLY. HE NOTED THAT HE DID NOT LISTEN
TO THOSE BROADCASTS, ALTHOUGH HE OFTEN LISTENED TO
VOA EVENING BROADCASTS IN ENGLISH. MLADENOV SUGGESTED

THAT PERHAPS THERE WAS UNINTENTIONAL ATMOSPHERIC INTER-FERENCE. HE ALSO SUGGESTED, ALTERNATIVELY, THAT PERHAPS THE CONTENT OF VOA BROADCASTS HAD CHANGED. IN SHORT, HE CLEARLY WAS UNAWARE OF ANY BULGARIAN DECISION TO RESUME JAMMING OF VOA'S BULGARIAN LANGUAGE BROADCASTS, AND EVIDENTLY NO POLITBURO LEVEL DECISION WAS INVOLVED.

3. MLADENOV REACTED TO REFERENCES TO THE CSCE FINAL ACT IN EVIDENT REFLEX REFERENCE TO THE OBLIGATIONS OF ALL PARTIES TO STRIVE FOR IMPROVED UNDERSTANDING, AS WELL AS BROADENED COMMUNICATION. BUT HE DID NOT ATTEMPT TO ARGUE THAT CSCE FINAL ACT WAS IRRELEVANT TO THE QUESTION AT HAND.

4. MLADENOV THEN MOUNTED A COUNTEROFFENSIVE AGAINST RFE AND THE CONTENT OF RFE BROADCASTS TO BULGARIA. HE DESCRIBED RFE AS A REMNANT OF THE COLD WAR, AND SAID THAT RFE BROADCASTS INCLUDED LIBELS AND UNTRUTHS WHICH WERE HIGHLY OFFENSIVE TO THE BULGARIAN PEOPLE AND COULD ONLY SERVE TO MAKE MORE DIFFICULT AN IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS. IN THIS CONNECTION, MLADENOV DISCLOSED THAT HE HAD RAISED THE QUESTION OF RFE WITH FRG FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER ON LATTER'S RECENT VISIT TO SOFIA; GENSCHER HAD REPLIED THAT RFE WAS AN AMERICAN STATION. MLADENOV SUGGESTED THAT I MIGHT CONTEND THAT IT WAS NOT AMERICAN, SINCE IT WAS NOT LOCATED ON AMERICAN CONFIDENTIAL

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TERRITORY, BUT IT WAS FINANCED BY THE US AND THE US WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR IT. HE SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED THAT I CONVEY TO MY AUTHORITIES HIS PROTEST ON RFE BROADCASTS TO BULGARIA.

5. AFTER WE BRIEFLY DISCUSSED SOME OTHER MATTERS, MLADENOV REFERRED TO OUR DEMARCHE AS A "SHARP PROTEST" AND REAFFIRMED THAT HE WOULD LOOK INTO THE SITUATION AND BE IN TOUCH WITH ME AGAIN ON IT AS SOON AS HE HAD ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO CONVEY.
GARTHOFF

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: JAMMING, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, RADIO FREQUENCIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SOFIA02556
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770480-0402
Format: TEL
From: SOFIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
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